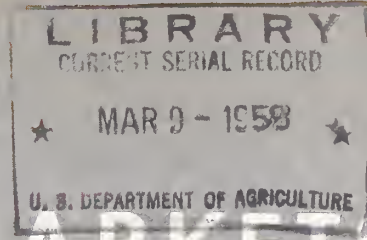


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Foreign



CROPS AND MARKETS

World Summaries CROPS AND LIVESTOCK

FOR RELEASE THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 1958

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FOREIGN CROPS AND MARKETS

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WORLD COCOA BEAN PRODUCTION REDUCED BY RAINS

The February estimate (second) of world production of cocoa beans for the 1957-58 season is 1.8 million pounds. This is slightly less than the 1955-56 crop, but 11.5 percent below the high 1956-57 production of 2.0 million pounds.

North America: Production for 1957-58 is now estimated at 172.7 million pounds, compared with 173.5 million pounds for 1956-57. The Dominican Republic's winter crop of 1957-58 is reported down somewhat from 1956-57, but prospects for the summer crop are very good. Mexico's 1957-58 production now is not expected to exceed 28 million pounds as excessive rains have caused considerable damage to the winter crop. Ample moisture in the soil may increase the spring production but probably not enough to offset the decline in the winter crop. The crop in Trinidad this year should exceed last year's thrip-damaged crop.

South America: Production is now estimated at 527 million pounds. Brazil is expected to have about a 380-million pound crop as weather reportedly has been very favorable. The first commercial crop of the State of Sao Paulo, Brazil was harvested this year and was about 8.2 tons. It is reported that there are about 300,000 trees in the northern coastal region near the town of Ubatuba. The trees range in age from one to 6 years.

Cacao production in Colombia for 1957-58 is now estimated at 31 million pounds. This is a slight reduction from earlier forecasts, due to drought, pests, and failure to harvest in some areas. Small increases in production are expected this year compared to 1956-57 for Ecuador and Venezuela.

COCOA BEANS: Production in principal producing countries, averages
 1935/36-1939/40, 1945/46-1949/50, annual 1955-56, 1956-57, 1957-58 1/

Continent and country	Average 1935/36- 1939/40 <u>2/</u>	Average 1945/46- 1949/50	1955-56	1956-57	1957-58
	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds
North America:					
Costa Rica	14,356	11,326	3/ 22,400	3/ 19,700	3/ 20,000
Cuba	7,000	6,259	4,400	5,500	6,200
Dominican Republic	54,049	62,164	60,000	78,700	75,000
Grenada	8,536	5,703	1,500	4,000	5,000
Haiti	3,349	3,790	2,800	3,500	4,000
Jamaica	4,750	4,274	6,500	6,500	7,000
Mexico	2,500	13,318	26,500	31,000	28,000
Panama	10,418	5,931	3,500	3,500	4,500
Trinidad and Tobago	31,635	12,124	21,500	17,000	19,000
Other North America <u>4/</u> ..	4,059	3,032	3,000	4,000	4,000
Total North America ..	140,652	127,921	152,100	173,500	172,700
South America:					
Bolivia	5/	5/	6,500	6,500	6,500
Brazil	263,980	283,870	348,100	381,000	380,000
Colombia	25,000	25,465	27,560	30,000	31,000
Ecuador	42,373	40,045	60,000	64,500	66,000
Peru	5/	5/	3,300	3,400	3,500
Venezuela	36,934	37,952	37,500	39,600	40,000
Total South America ..	368,287	387,332	482,960	525,000	527,000
Africa:					
Belgian Congo	2,809	3,220	8,000	10,000	11,000
Fernando Po and Rio Muni ..	25,000	34,208	48,500	49,600	50,500
French Cameroons	58,350	6/ 90,832	123,500	132,000	135,000
French Equatorial Africa ..	1,871	7/	7,500	7,000	7,000
French Togoland	8/	8/	12,600	14,000	12,000
Ghana <u>2/</u>	609,363	512,350	530,700	589,850	485,000
French West Africa <u>10/</u> ..	109,937	94,424	158,730	170,000	115,000
Liberia	8/	8/	1,570	1,800	2,000
Nigeria <u>11/</u>	216,318	222,980	254,800	310,000	225,000
Sao Thome and Principe ...	22,496	19,755	17,000	18,000	17,000
Sierra Leone	8/	8/	4,860	5,400	5,600
Other Africa <u>12/</u>	8/ 8,154	8/ 9,018	2,000	2,000	2,000
Total Africa	1,054,298	986,787	1,169,760	1,309,650	1,067,100
Asia & Oceania:					
Ceylon	7,931	4,866	6,500	6,500	7,500
Indonesia	3,310	1,198	3,100	3,000	3,000
New Guinea	-	-	3,000	4,760	7,500
New Hebrides	3,916	2,452	1,500	2,000	2,000
Philippines	-	-	3,300	3,500	4,500
Western Samoa	2,326	5,200	6,800	7,000	9,000
Total Asia & Oceania ..	17,483	13,716	24,200	26,760	33,500
World total	1,580,720	1,515,756	1,829,020	2,034,910	1,800,300

1/ Production for most countries is on an October 1 to September 30 year. Brazil's production for 1957-58 is on an October 1 to September 30 year. Production for previous years is on a May 1 to April 30 year. 2/ Export data have been used for all countries with the exception of Mexico, Cuba and Colombia. 3/ Some cocoa beans produced in Costa Rica move across the border for marketing in Nicaragua. 4/ Includes Dominica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guadeloupe, Martinique, Nicaragua, St. Lucia and St. Vincent. 5/ Not available. 6/ Includes French Equatorial Africa. 7/ Included in French Cameroons. 8/ Prior to 1955-56 French Togoland, Liberia and Sierra Leone are included in other Africa. 9/ Formerly Gold Coast and British Togoland. 10/ Mostly Ivory Coast. 11/ Includes British Cameroons. 12/ Includes Angola and Madagascar.

Foreign Agricultural Service. Official publications of foreign governments. Other foreign source material, reports of Agricultural Attaches and other United States representatives abroad, and other information.

Africa: Cocoa production for 1957-58 is now expected to be considerably reduced from the large crop of 1956-57. Production for 1957-58 is now estimated at 1,067 million pounds, which is very close to the 5-year averages for 1935-39 and 1945-49. It would, however, be an 18.5-percent decrease from the 1,310-million pound crop of 1956-57. Excessive rains prior to the beginning of the 1957-58 marketing season continued well into the season in much of the producing area of Africa. These rains prevented harvesting, fermenting, and marketing and delayed the crop for several weeks. Black pod damage then became prevalent, and although trees were heavily fruited, many pods were lost.

Ghana, Nigeria, and the Ivory Coast, the largest producing countries of Africa, were hit hardest by unfavorable wet weather. The main crops of these countries, which account for by far the greatest percentage of annual production, were reduced measurably. The mid-crop (harvested in the spring of 1958) may be somewhat larger than normal, but at best would probably not increase total production by more than 10 million pounds above the usual light crop.

The French Cameroons, usually the fifth largest world producer of cocoa, will probably be the fourth largest in 1957-58. Not as affected by adverse weather, the crop there is expected to surpass the production of the Ivory Coast. Acreage in cocoa in the Cameroons has been increasing each year, and there were about 492,000 acres of cocoa plantations in 1956. The Belgian Congo also is expected to continue to increase production. In the last ten years production has tripled, and over one-third of present acreage is in young trees.

Other producing countries of Africa will probably not show much change in production this year. A slight decrease is expected for French Togoland from 1956-57, but exports may be higher for the 1957-58 year as cross border movements may be into instead of out of the country as in 1956-57.

Asia: Production of cacao for 1957-58 is expected to be considerably above 1956-57. A production of 33.5 million pounds is estimated this year compared to a production of about 26.8 million pounds for 1956-57.

Significant increases are expected in 1957-58 for New Guinea and Western Samoa. Cocoa is said to be a popular and profitable crop for native producers of Papua and New Guinea, and the Minister of Territories for this area has stated that trees now planted should yield as much as 27 million pounds by 1963. Cacao production in the Philippines continues to move upward, and may reach self-sufficiency within the next 10 years.

SECOND FORECAST INDICATES NEW RECORD FOR WORLD CORN PRODUCTION

World corn production in 1957-58 is estimated at 6,615 million bushels, in a second forecast based on latest information available to the Foreign Agricultural Service. This would be a record crop, exceeding the previous record last season by 105 million bushels and the 1950-54 average by 975 million.

The present estimate is larger than the first forecast last December, mainly because of a substantial increase in the estimate for the United States. Increases in estimates for Europe and improved prospects for the coming harvest in South America also contributed to the larger total now estimated.

Near-record production in the United States this season, together with record stocks, bring supplies in this country for the current season to a new high. Total supplies on October 1, the beginning of the new season, were about 4.8 billion bushels. Despite a continued high level of disappearance during the first 3 months of the current season, stocks remaining on January 1, 1958 were 3.6 billion bushels, approximating the country's record corn crop for all purposes in 1948. Supplies in Argentina will also be larger for the season beginning April 1, if the corn harvest is as large as now forecast. Present forecasts point to a larger surplus than that traditional exporter has had for a number of years.

North America's current estimate of 3,612 million bushels is less than the large total of 3,676 million bushels last year. Some reduction from the high 1956 production was reported for the United States and Mexico, the largest producers of the area.

Though the United States crop of 3,403 million bushels for all purposes has been exceeded only twice, it was harvested from the smallest acreage reported since 1885. Average yields of 46.8 bushels per acre were the largest of record. The United States crop this year was 51 percent of the world total. Mexico's crop is still tentatively placed at about 120 million bushels. Earlier expectations of a crop equalling the 1956 production of 140 million bushels were not realized because of some drought damage. Canada's production of 29.6 million bushels has been exceeded only once.

Corn production in Europe is now estimated at 845 million bushels. This is a record crop and 160 million more than the small 1956 harvest. The bulk of the increase was reported for the Danube Basin countries where harvests were small last year. Production was about the same as last year in Italy, the principal producer of Western Europe. Reduced acreage in France brought production there below the 1956 crop.

The Soviet Union's corn production for the current season is below the record crop of 1956 because of drought in a number of important regions, and a smaller acreage harvested. Corn acreage, though less than in 1956, is nevertheless about 4 times the 1954 acreage. Since part of the expansion since 1954 was in areas not favorable to maturing corn as grain, substantial quantities of the corn produced are harvested for silage or green forage.

AFRICA:														
Belgian Congo	670	847	867	845	-	17.9	15.0	14.8	14.7	-	12,000	12,738	12,830	-
Kenya 5/	136	156	158	166	-	24.9	27.8	29.1	30.7	-	3,393	4,334	4,600	5,300
Egypt	1,699	1,819	1,903	1,905	1,836	33.4	33.9	35.5	29.3	27.5	56,696	61,670	67,470	50,540
Morocco 9/	1,260	1,236	1,223	1,245	1,193	8.0	7.7	9.2	8.3	7.6	10,074	9,536	11,260	9,100
French West Africa	-	-	1,703	-	-	-	-	9.5	-	-	-	-	16,180	-
Madagascar	214	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,472	-	-	-
Angola	1,260	1,300	1,360	1,480	-	8.8	8.2	6.4	8.8	-	11,130	10,670	8,700	13,400
Rhodesia-Nyasaland 8/	363	446	486	535	546	18.0	24.0	31.1	33.0	-	6,518	10,698	15,100	-
Union of South Africa	7,111	7,911	9,500	-	-	12.2	14.6	14.0	-	-	86,699	115,732	133,040	146,610
Estimated total 5/	20,800	23,190	25,700	25,600	25,800	-	-	-	-	-	300,000	355,000	395,000	365,000
SOUTH AMERICA:														
Argentina	5,327	4,833	5,536	4,983	-	29.1	24.8	27.5	21.3	-	155,012	120,098	152,350	200,000
Brazil	10,866	12,703	13,600	14,820	-	20.7	19.5	19.1	18.6	-	224,400	247,200	260,000	-
Chile	114	135	136	141	160	22.6	26.2	31.9	27.9	-	2,578	3,542	4,340	-
Colombia	1,654	1,806	2,059	2,059	-	15.4	17.1	18.0	14.2	-	25,429	30,862	37,000	28,000
Peru	780	636	581	580	-	17.2	19.2	20.1	18.7	-	13,423	12,186	11,680	9,850
Uruguay	395	643	759	653	-	10.1	10.7	11.3	6.0	-	3,997	6,902	8,570	-
Venezuela	815	910	-	-	-	13.3	14.5	-	-	-	10,820	13,200	12,400	-
Estimated total 5/	20,810	22,600	24,560	25,110	25,570	-	-	-	-	-	450,000	450,000	500,000	555,000
OCEANIA:														
Australia	222	173	168	160	-	26.6	26.9	28.0	28.1	-	5,899	4,654	4,700	-
New Zealand	7	5	3	3	-	55.6	62.0	-	-	-	389	310	-	-
Estimated total 5/	235	180	170	170	170	-	-	-	-	-	6,500	5,000	5,000	5,000
Estimated world total 5/	216,980	221,040	252,170	253,940	249,700	-	-	-	-	-	5,330,000	5,640,000	6,350,000	6,615,000

1/ Years shown refer to years of harvest in the Northern Hemisphere. Harvests of Northern Hemisphere countries are combined with those of the Southern Hemisphere which follow; thus the crop harvested in the Northern Hemisphere in 1957 is combined with preliminary forecasts for the Southern Hemisphere harvest which begins early in 1958. 2/ Figures refer to harvested area as far as possible. 3/ Yield per acre calculated with preliminary forecasts for the Southern Hemisphere, except for incomplete periods. 4/ Revised estimates for Northern Hemisphere countries; for the Southern Hemisphere, revised preliminary forecasts. 5/ Estimated totals, which in the case of production are rounded to millions, include allowances for any missing data for countries shown and for other producing countries not shown. 6/ Average of less than 5 years. 7/ Figures for the period shown are not strictly comparable since figures for 1950 to date include estimates for non-reporting areas, which were not included with earlier figures shown, though allowances were included in estimated total for Asia. 8/ Production on European holdings only. Allowances for native cultivation, now shown, are included in estimated total for Africa. 9/ Excludes data for areas formerly known as Spanish Morocco and Tangier.

Foreign Agricultural Service. Prepared or estimated on the basis of official statistics of foreign governments, reports of United States Agricultural Attaches abroad, results of office research, or other information.

Estimates for Asia are still tentative since reports are not available for some of the leading corn producing countries. On the basis of available information, it appears that production may be slightly less than the large production last year. It is, however, estimated to be a little above the 1950-54 average. Corn acreage appears to have increased moderately in most countries compared with that average period.

Corn production in Africa appears to be down from the high level of 1956. Most of the reduction is expected in the Union of South Africa where drought is damaging the growing crop. The harvest in that Southern Hemisphere country begins in late March, and present prospects point to a marked reduction from the record crop last year. This is the leading country in Africa's corn production, normally accounting for more than a third of that continent's total.

The corn crop in South America is entering the final growth stage, as harvesting normally becomes general in late March. Present prospects for the crop are good, and a total of 555 million bushels is forecast. In Argentina conditions are much more favorable than at this time last year, and a crop of about 200 million bushels is expected. That would be about double the small outturn last year. Forecasts for other countries show little change from the crops of a year ago.

Corn is of minor importance in Oceania and the harvest this spring is forecast at 5 million bushels; the same as last year.

WORLD COTTON PRODUCTION BELOW EARLIER ESTIMATE

World cotton production in 1957-58 is now estimated at 39.2 million bales (500 pounds gross weight). This is 1.1 million bales below the estimate last October, excluding recent revisions for Communist China. Since October, downward revisions reported for the United States, India, Turkey, and Uganda have more than offset better production prospects for Mexico, Egypt, Pakistan, and the Soviet Union.

In the United States, late crop prospects were reduced by rainy, damp weather following late October frosts and freezes, particularly in Texas, Oklahoma, and the Central Belt. Cotton ginned prior to January 16, 1958, totaled 10.6 million running bales, or 97.5 percent of the total estimated crop. The proportion of ginnings in the period December 1, 1957, through January 15, 1958, was larger than average. As a result of adverse weather, picking was delayed and the grade index of the current crop is significantly lower than in recent years.

The U. S. crop of 11.0 million bales (December estimate) is 2.3 million bales below a year earlier. This reflects a decline of 19 pounds per acre in yields and 2.1 million acres in area harvested. The reduced acreage is attributed to the removal of 3.0 million acres from production under the acreage reserve program, while basic acreage allotments were not changed significantly. Disappearance in 1957-58 is expected to exceed production by about 2.5 million bales and will reduce stocks by that quantity.

Since the October release, 1957-58 foreign non-Communist production prospects have changed only slightly, with the total increase of 0.5 million bales for some countries slightly exceeding the estimated reduction of about 0.4 million bales for others.

In Mexico, additional ginnings through January indicate an increase to about 2.2 million bales. Favorable growing conditions in El Salvador and Guatemala have increased yields substantially above those expected earlier. Yields are also up in Egypt, as a result of effective insect controls, and this, together with larger acreage than last year, indicates a crop of 1.8 million bales in 1957-58. The estimate for Pakistan is 50,000 bales above that in October, reflecting generally favorable growing conditions. Argentina's harvest, which is just beginning, is also up by this quantity. Production prospects for Brazil, Nicaragua, Greece, and a number of other countries remain virtually unchanged.

Downward revisions since last October of 80,000 bales in India, 75,000 each in Turkey and Uganda, and 40,000 each in Peru and Sudan, generally reflect adverse growing conditions as well as more accurate estimates as harvests progressed. These reductions probably will be reflected in equivalent reductions in exportable surpluses below those earlier expected, while the increased production in other countries will increase the amount available for export.

World totals on cotton acreage and production have been revised upward to reflect recent information obtained on Communist China. That information shows China is now producing and consuming roughly 6.0 million bales of cotton each season. This is about the same as production in the Soviet Union, and those two countries now rank second and third in world cotton production.

Aggregate production for Communist countries, mainly the Soviet Union and China, is now placed at 11.8 million bales for 1957-58, about equal to 1955-56, but down 0.2 million bales from last year. In the Soviet Union, harvestings indicate a larger 1957-58 crop than estimated earlier, but production is still 0.5 million bales below last year's unusually large crop. This decline is partially offset by larger production in China this year compared with 1956-57.

Continent and country	Acreage				Production 3/											
	Average		1955	1956 2/	1957 2/	Average						1955	1956 2/	1957 2/		
	1935-39	1950-54				1935-39	1950-54	1955	1956 2/	1957 2/						
	1,000	acres	acres	acres	acres	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
						bales	bales	bales	bales	bales	bales	bales	bales	bales	bales	bales
NORTH AMERICA:																
El Salvador.....	9	63	113	95	102	5	53	133	137	142						
Guatemala.....	--	23	52	33	44	2	19	47	50	63						
Mexico.....	725	1,936	2,700	2,095	2,250	334	1,333	2,250	1,790	2,175						
Nicaragua.....	9	101	257	182	150	5	87	160	193	145						
United States.....	27,788	22,861	16,928	15,615	13,561	13,149	14,093	14,721	13,310	11,010						
British West Indies.....	20	17	14	13	--	5	4	4	4	5						
Haiti.....	--	39	--	--	--	22	7	6	--	--						
Total 4/.....	28,612	25,054	20,125	18,103	16,195	13,523	15,602	17,326	15,501	13,565						
EUROPE:																
Bulgaria 5/.....	85	120	--	--	--	35	45	84	54	--						
Greece.....	173	219	410	395	387	77	137	279	234	266						
Italy.....	56	82	133	112	--	21	31	64	37	55						
Rumania 5/.....	8	122	418	278	--	2	23	30	28	--						
Spain.....	46	168	406	494	425	10	60	155	223	170						
Yugoslavia.....	8	34	35	32	32	3	5	14	9	15						
Total 4/.....	377	761	1,677	1,561	1,494	148	306	626	585	616						
U.S.S.R. (Europe and Asia):	5,087	5,885	5,400	5,100	5,000	3,430	4,760	5,500	6,200	5,700						
ASIA:																
Aden.....	--	18	38	35	40	--	12	24	24	25						
Cyprus.....	11	12	12	12	12	3	3	3	3	3						
Iran.....	453	463	650	625	--	171	186	275	285	280						
Iraq.....	53	97	100	105	135	11	27	33	36	44						
Israel.....	--	--	6	14	12	--	2	11	15	23						
Syria.....	85	404	600	672	638	28	231	400	426	500						
Turkey.....	667	1,458	1,547	1,575	1,512	249	624	600	643	500						
Afghanistan.....	--	87	170	196	--	49	55	57	85	--						
Burma.....	428	365	405	450	400	97	91	85	80	75						
China, Mainland.....	7,038	12,740	14,300	15,400	14,300	2,855	4,520	6,200	5,700	6,000						
India.....	6/ 24,204	16,463	19,978	19,843	--	6/ 5,348	3,382	3,780	4,060	4,220						
Korea 7/.....	564	316	276	275	210	198	77	81	72	50						
Indonesia.....	27	10	10	10	--	9	2	2	2	--						
Pakistan.....	6/	3,167	3,540	3,590	3,600	6/	1,321	1,420	1,400	1,450						
Thailand.....	16	89	81	--	--	7	32	32	32	--						
Total 4/.....	33,805	35,728	41,743	42,933	42,830	9,038	10,575	13,011	12,879	13,275						

SOUTH AMERICA:

Argentina.....	770:	1,308:	1,320:	1,275:	1,450:	289:	557:	563:	480:
Brazil.....	5,562:	4,680:	5,000:	4,300:	3,700:	1,956:	1,655:	1,700:	1,325:
Colombia.....	98:	163:	170:	165:	170:	23:	69:	105:	103:
Ecuador.....	40:	38:	45:	40:	--:	13:	11:	12:	12:
Paraguay.....	111:	153:	140:	150:	--:	40:	59:	55:	55:
Peru.....	428:	488:	558:	556:	540:	379:	450:	477:	494:
Venezuela.....	50:	35:	50:	50:	--:	11:	13:	24:	25:
Total $\frac{1}{4}$ /.....	7,060:	6,870:	7,289:	6,540:	6,110:	2,711:	2,816:	2,938:	2,496:

AFRICA AND OCEANIA:

Sudan.....	439:	614:	598:	764:	748:	248:	383:	441:	617:
Belgian Congo.....	874:	863:	850:	850:	840:	172:	222:	246:	230:
Rhodesia-Nyasaland.....	86:	81:	--:	--:	--:	12:	13:	5:	5:
Kenya.....	--:	73:	100:	--:	--:	13:	11:	14:	8:
Tanganyika.....	--:	209:	300:	300:	--:	50:	55:	100:	110:
Uganda.....	1,477:	1,574:	1,585:	1,569:	1,617:	281:	291:	303:	313:
Egypt.....	1,821:	1,832:	1,885:	1,715:	1,888:	1,893:	1,705:	1,535:	1,492:
Algeria.....	--:	19:	26:	18:	18:	--:	8:	10:	7:
Morocco.....	1:	9:	12:	12:	14:	8/	5:	7:	8:
French Equatorial Africa.....	390:	700:	800:	785:	775:	41:	135:	165:	155:
French West Africa.....	--:	181:	200:	--:	--:	28:	30:	45:	51:
Mozambique.....	--:	690:	725:	725:	--:	9/	148:	102:	165:
Nigeria.....	--:	463:	--:	--:	--:	36:	114:	150:	135:
Angola.....	73:	124:	128:	135:	--:	13:	25:	32:	32:
Union of South Africa.....	--:	66:	100:	--:	--:	2:	23:	29:	31:
Australia.....	53:	8:	11:	9:	9:	11:	3:	3:	3:
Total $\frac{1}{4}$ /.....	6,176:	7,547:	8,236:	8,223:	8,531:	2,840:	3,183:	3,199:	3,376:

World total $\frac{1}{4}$ /.....	81,147:	81,845:	84,470:	82,460:	80,160:	31,690:	37,242:	42,600:	41,040:
Foreign Free World $\frac{1}{4}$ /.....	41,140:	40,101:	47,149:	45,817:	46,774:	12,219:	13,796:	16,065:	15,748:
Communist countries $\frac{1}{4}$ /.....	12,219:	18,883:	20,393:	21,028:	19,825:	6,322:	9,553:	11,814:	11,982:

1/ Years refer to crop years beginning August 1, in which major portion of crop was harvested. 2/ Preliminary.

3/ Production in bales of 478 pounds net prior to 1946 and 480 pounds thereafter. 4/ Includes estimates for minor-producing countries not listed above and allowances for other figures not available. 5/ Figures for 1943 to date are not comparable with prewar figures because of boundary changes. 6/ Pakistan included with India. 7/ South Korea only after 1941.

8/ Less than 500. 9/ Exports.

Foreign Agricultural Service. Prepared or estimated on the basis of official statistics of foreign governments, other foreign source material, reports of U. S. Agricultural Attaches and Foreign Service officers, results of office research and related information.

The Commodity Summaries in this monthly supplementary issue of Foreign Crops and Markets are part of a series of reports on World Crop and Livestock Production and Trade which are released according to a schedule published at the beginning of each calendar year.

The country data are prepared or estimated on the basis of official statistics of foreign governments, reports of Agricultural Attaches and other U. S. Representatives abroad, results of office research, and other information. The Summaries of Production have been approved by the Foreign Agricultural Service Committee on Foreign Crops and Livestock Statistics.

WORLD FLAXSEED PRODUCTION IN 1957 DOWN ONE-FOURTH FROM YEAR EARLIER

World flaxseed production in 1957 is now placed at 124.6 million bushels, 19 million bushels less than the first estimate published by the Foreign Agricultural Service last November. The sharp decline stems largely from the reduced estimate of the Argentine crop, although the production estimate for Canada also was down substantially. World production now appears to be one-fourth less than the large outturn of 1956.

The decline from 1956 reflects significantly smaller crops in 4 of the 5 major producing countries of the world--Canada, the United States, India and the Soviet Union--with the sharpest drop, both quantity-wise and relatively, in the United States.

Flaxseed production in North America was down nearly 45 percent from 1956. While Canada's harvest was the third largest of record (the second largest crop in the last 45 years), it was only three-fifths as large as the record outturn of 1956. While acreage was 15 percent above 1956, and almost 3.5 times the 1950-54 average, yields averaged the lowest in the last 20 years. Lack of rainfall was the major cause, but hail storms also severely damaged the crop in some districts. Furthermore, a virus known as "aster yellows" damaged plants in Manitoba and Saskatchewan.

The large crop plus a near-record carryover of 7.3 million bushels gives Canada a 27.3 million bushel supply for the August 1, 1957 - July 31, 1958 marketing year, second only to 1956-57. With export and carryout availabilities placed at 20 million bushels for the current marketing year, and with 5 million bushels exported by the end of December, availabilities for export and stocks as of January 1, 1958 were about 15 million bushels. Canada was the world's leading source of flaxseed and linseed oil in 1956-57, exports totaling almost 23 million bushels, seed equivalent.

Flaxseed production in the United States declined over 45 percent from 1956 and was the smallest since 1946. The low average yield of 5.3 bushels, the smallest since 1936, was mainly the result of the infestation of the "aster yellows" disease.

Total supplies in the current marketing year, including the flaxseed equivalent of linseed oil, are estimated at 50.3 million bushels compared with 60 million last year. This year's supply includes beginning stocks of 24.5 million bushels (including the flaxseed equivalent of linseed oil), most of it held by the Commodity Credit Corporation. The supply remaining after deducting early season CCC sales of 13 million bushels of flaxseed for export as seed or oil, will be needed for domestic use and a small carryover.

Mexico's flaxseed crop was about one-fourth less than in 1956, owing largely to drought conditions in Jalisco State.

European production was down an estimated 5 percent from 1956, principally because of smaller crops in the Netherlands, Belgium and possibly France. And in the Soviet Union drought is believed to have reduced the outturn.

The estimated 2.5-million-bushel (14 percent) decline in Asia's flaxseed production is attributable to the decrease in India. The Indian harvest was the smallest since 1952, mainly because of unfavorable growing weather. Prospects for India's new crop (harvested from January to April) are reportedly unsatisfactory.

Contrary to early expectations, South American flaxseed production in late 1957 declined an estimated 8 percent from 1956. Plantings in Argentina were the largest in a decade but heavy rains at harvest time did serious damage and the preharvest forecast of a large crop has been cut sharply to an estimate of less than 24 million bushels (second official), or approximately the size of the previous year's outturn.

Allowing 3.5 million bushels for seed and some 750,000 bushels for consumption as oil, leaves about 20 million bushels from the new crop available for export and carryout in calendar 1958. This is equivalent to about 200,000 short tons of oil. In addition, there appears to be a sizable carryout of old-crop oil for export in 1958.

As in Argentina, heavy rains reduced the harvest in Uruguay and probably were responsible for the sharp decline in Brazil as flaxseed production there is limited to the southern states--adjacent to Argentina and Uruguay.

Total African production likely was around 3 million bushels. Reliable estimates for Ethiopia, by far the major producer, are not available. Oceania's output of about a million bushels in each of the last 2 years has been largely in Australia.

FLAXSEED: Acreage, yield per acre, and production in specified countries and the world, averages 1935-39 and 1950-54, annual 1955-57 1/

Continent and country	Harvested acreage				Yield per acre				Production			
	Average		1955		Average		1955		Average		1955	
	1935-39	1950-54	1935-39	1950-54	1935-39	1950-54	1935-39	1950-54	1935-39	1950-54	1935-39	1950-54
	acres	acres	acres	acres	bushels	bushels	bushels	bushels	bushels	bushels	bushels	bushels
North America:												
Canada.....	307	1,010	1,838	3,041	5.1	9.5	10.7	11.3	1,508	9,654	19,748	34,463
Mexico.....	16	118	25	37	6.9	15.4	15.9	13.8	111	1,869	394	512
United States.....	1,451	4,306	4,981	5,548	7.4	8.7	8.3	8.7	10,991	36,809	41,243	48,009
Total.....	1,774	5,434	6,844	8,626	---	---	---	---	12,610	48,332	61,385	82,984
Europe:												
Belgium 3/4.....	75	77	88	84	---	8.6	10.0	9.7	664	661	879	817
Denmark.....	---	17	2	2	---	12.5	13.6	21.0	---	235	25	51
Finland 3/.....	4/ 9	5/ 5	6/ 4	---	---	7.5	5/ 10.0	5.6	---	36	5/ 52	---
France 3/.....	92	121	141	143	130	5.0	5.7	9.6	464	685	921	1,378
Germany, West 3/.....	5/ 45	14	8	7	---	5/ 10.6	12.2	10.7	5/ 476	173	88	67
Greece.....	---	6	10	---	---	7.9	7.7	4.0	79	51	39	40
Italy 3/.....	30	45	39	35	---	6.7	10.0	10.1	202	456	392	353
Netherlands 3/.....	42	70	80	79	56	13.0	12.1	13.3	546	850	1,073	1,049
Spain 3/.....	5/ 3	30	27	40	---	5/ 4.2	5.3	5.8	5/ 13	179	157	---
Sweden.....	---	45	2	4	---	---	15.6	17.9	---	722	39	82
United Kingdom.....	5/ 2	19	2	1	---	---	17.0	12.5	---	40	25	---
Yugoslavia 3/.....	33	25	26	22	---	1.6	.9	---	52	20	16	---
Estimated total 1/.....	346	480	430	430	385	---	---	---	2,610	4,430	3,680	4,075
Estimated total, other Europe.....	295	640	695	700	690	---	---	---	2,693	5,000	5,400	5,230
Estimated total, all Europe (excluding U.S.R.) 1/.....	641	1,120	1,125	1,130	1,075	---	---	---	5,303	9,430	9,080	9,305
U.S.S.R. (Europe and Asia) 3/.....	5/ 6,434	4,620	4,695	5,906	---	5/ 5.1	---	---	5/ 32,115	---	---	---

1957 WORLD APPLE AND PEAR PRODUCTION DOWN

Due primarily to an almost 60 percent drop in the European crop, total world apple production in 1957 dropped about 245 million bushels below 1956. Over two-thirds of the apples grown in 26 countries covered by this summary are produced in Europe.

The European decline in apple production was mostly in France, West Germany, Austria, the Netherlands and Switzerland. A number of these countries permitted apple imports earlier as a result.

Two factors primarily tended to limit larger exports from the United States which had its largest apple crop in recent years. These were (1) restrictions of other countries on apple imports, and (2) the largeness of U. S. apples. Late rains in the eastern United States produced good-sized fruit when the summer drought had been expected to keep the size small. Growing conditions in the Pacific Northwest were especially good. U. S. apples in general, therefore, were larger than the sizes most in European demand.

Although its 1957 crop was relatively short compared with 1956, Italy was still the most important supplier of the northern European market. Italy's apple production has grown phenomenally in the past 20 years. With the climate in northern Italy well suited to apple production, the fact that even the reduced crop of 1957 is almost 4 times that of 20 years ago indicates that sales of American apples to Europe will meet stiffer competition by Italian apples in the near future.

Pears

The same early spring freezes also severely damaged the 1957 pear crop. Production was reduced by almost 50 percent. The countries which suffered most were the same as those whose apple crops were most affected by spring freezes. The crop of cider pears was relatively much smaller than that of cooking and dessert pears.

Restrictions on imports of pears into a number of northern European countries were lifted earlier than usual due to the short crop. The United States had a better than average crop and a surprisingly large quantity of U. S. pears were exported to Europe.

In non-European countries the 1957 crop was about normal, so that the world total production for the 25 countries listed is about 50 million bushels lower in 1957 than in 1956.

(Tables on following pages)

PEARS: Production in specified countries,
averages 1935-39 and 1950-54, annual 1955-57

Continent and country	Averages		1955	1956	1957	1/
	1935-39	1950-54				
NORTH AMERICA:	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	
Canada.....	569	1,217	1,510	1,400	971	
Mexico.....	331	719	677	750	573	
United States.....	28,693	28,881	29,622	32,322	31,902	
Total.....	29,593	30,817	31,809	34,472	33,446	
EUROPE:						
Austria:						
Dessert & cooking...	950	1,588	2,032	1,756	1,219	
Cider.....	5,416	6,064	6,248	8,084	1,764	
Belgium-Luxembourg...	2,126	8,576	8,824	6,177	1,765	
Denmark.....	480	956	529	926	600	
France:						
Dessert & cooking...	1,760	6,559	8,303	7,612	5,412	
Cider.....	21,776	25,161	22,715	22,219	4,411	
Germany, Western.....	11,891	19,474	15,700	14,100	5,163	
Greece.....	878	1,446	1,261	1,726	1,953	
Italy.....	8,482	16,155	19,364	19,369	15,900	
Netherlands.....	1,570	6,056	4,189	4,806	1,323	
Norway.....	174	298	398	295	278	
Spain.....	3,057	3,303	3,448	3,527	3,748	
Sweden.....	1,063	1,614	750	2,659	1,093	
Switzerland.....	7,037	11,640	13,669	5,732	2,646	
United Kingdom:						
Dessert & cooking...	782	1,512	2,236	2,778	1,971	
Cider.....	237	186	112	246	172	
Yugoslavia.....	2,773	3,134	2,469	1,764	3,527	
Total cider....	27,429	31,411	29,075	30,549	6,347	
Total other....	43,023	82,311	83,172	73,227	46,598	
Total Europe....	70,452	113,722	112,247	103,776	52,945	
ASIA:						
Lebanon.....	2/	365	150	150	160	
Turkey.....	3,466	4,077	3,688	5,615	5,700	
Japan.....	7,366	4,012	5,681	7,075	7,425	
SOUTH AMERICA:						
Argentina.....	2,443	4,810	4,800	5,100	5,500	
Chile.....	88	160	190	205	210	
AFRICA:						
Union of So. Africa 2/	832	1,001	1,459	1,399	1,300	
OCEANIA:						
Australia.....	2,467	3,948	4,200	4,091	4,373	
New Zealand.....	328	472	602	545	570	
Total 25 specified countries (excl. cider).....	89,606	131,973	135,751	131,879	105,282	
Total specified countries.....	117,035	163,384	164,826	162,428	111,629	

1/ Preliminary.

2/ Not separately shown.

3/ Average years total production. Individual years Deciduous Fruit Board handlings.

Estimates in original units of approximately 1 bushel in the following countries: Australia, Canada, United States, New Zealand, and South Africa. In other countries original estimates, mostly in metric tons, converted to bushels of 50 pounds, except Argentina and Chile in 44-pound boxes. Harvest in the Southern Hemisphere countries is for the spring of the following year.

APPLES: Production in specified countries,
averages 1935-39 and 1950-54, annual 1955-57

Continent and country	Averages		1955	1956	1957 1/
	1935-39	1950-54			
	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
NORTH AMERICA:	<u>bushels</u>	<u>bushels</u>	<u>bushels</u>	<u>bushels</u>	<u>bushels</u>
Canada.....	14,560	13,613	19,142	12,424	14,802
Mexico.....	1,231	2,441	2,681	2,689	2,526
United States.....	127,311	107,479	107,157	100,623	117,308
Total.....	143,102	123,533	128,980	115,736	134,636
EUROPE:					
Austria:					
Dessert & cooking..	7,095	8,675	12,093	15,536	4,590
Cider.....	6,291	4,391	4,315	6,760	1,378
Belgium-Luxembourg...	5,721	14,032	10,219	9,438	7,096
Denmark.....	2,818	9,884	6,430	9,645	8,727
Finland.....	1,008	629	1,000	900	550
France:					
Dessert & cooking..	10,499	19,695	20,080	23,883	7,740
Cider.....	153,973	160,995	145,351	142,172	28,225
Germany, Western.....	36,116	64,274	35,800	72,500	18,652
Greece.....	374	1,835	1,654	3,365	4,305
Italy.....	12,923	36,834	55,707	64,215	45,314
Netherlands.....	3,631	15,517	9,646	15,065	5,741
Norway.....	1,080	2,303	2,017	3,059	2,062
Spain:					
Dessert & cooking..	5,411	7,040	8,759	7,808	7,716
Cider.....	2/ 2,508	25,188	4,083	3,674	3,582
Sweden.....	4,770	7,661	5,466	12,989	7,624
Switzerland.....	16,452	22,138	12,860	21,587	5,052
United Kingdom:					
Dessert & cooking..	10,597	24,479	18,676	25,107	20,533
Cider.....	3,427	3,886	1,773	3,234	2,800
Yugoslavia.....	7,098	6,368	11,436	6,430	4,823
Total cider....	166,199	194,460	155,522	155,840	35,985
Total other....	125,593	241,364	211,843	291,527	150,525
Total Europe....	291,792	435,824	367,365	447,367	186,510
ASIA:					
Lebanon.....	3/	836	1,102	1,194	1,608
Turkey.....	5,149	5,726	4,996	8,997	9,186
Japan.....	7,624	19,989	17,913	34,450	35,825
SOUTH AMERICA:					
Argentina.....	1,400	13,817	12,900	21,200	13,900
Chile.....	1,025	1,464	1,904	2,004	2,104
AFRICA:					
Union of So. Africa 4/	1,142	1,354	1,074	1,409	2,114
OCEANIA:					
Australia.....	10,435	10,642	13,500	11,270	13,526
New Zealand.....	2,875	2,983	3,620	3,359	3,500
Total 26 specified countries (excl. cider)	298,345	421,708	397,832	491,146	366,924
Total 26 specified countries.....	464,544	616,168	553,354	646,986	402,909

1/ Preliminary

2/ 1935 only.

3/ Not separately shown.

4/ Averages, total production. Individual years: Deciduous Fruit Board handlings.

Estimates in original units of approximately 1 bushel in the following countries: Australia, Canada, United States, New Zealand, and South Africa; in other countries original estimates, mostly in metric tons, converted to bushels of 48 pounds, except Argentina and Chile in 44-pound boxes. Harvest in the Southern Hemisphere countries is for the spring of the following year.



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